

# CHURCH GOVERNMENT

## I. Government:

A. (According to the dictionary) Means the authoritative direction of the affairs of men in a community, the act or system of directing or ruling; rule and administration.

B. The government of a church determines the operation of that church.

A church can't operate successfully unless its government is set up properly (according to Bible Scriptures).

C. For people to get their needs met, the Pastor of a church must be free to obey the Spirit of God.

Whether or not he is able to do that will depend largely upon the organization or government of his church.

THIS IS WHY CHURCH GOVERNMENT IS SO VITALLY IMPORTANT.

## II FOUR TYPES OF CHURCH GOVERNMENT

### A. Episcopal

1. Example: Roman Catholic.

a. It's controlled by Pope; then cardinals, bishops, etc.

b. The pastor of the local parish is at the bottom of list and has no authority to decide on how the church is run. All decisions are made by higher-ups.

### B. Presbyterian

1. Under this type, elders are in charge of the local church, usually consisting of three, seven, or twelve men, and they make the decisions.

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2. The pastor has little or no authority.

### C. Congregational

1. This type came into existence about 200 years ago; the same time the U.S. was established.
2. In this type everyone has a vote (the pastor only has one vote like everyone else).
3. A board decides what to present to the congregation for a vote.
4. In order for the board to make a decision, an unanimous vote is needed.
5. If not, the proposal is shelved. You can see how this would be ineffective, not to mention how this would cause strife.

### D. Independent

1. In this type of church government, the pastor is given complete charge of the local church.
2. (Ephesians 5:23-25) God gave man to be head of the home as Christ is head of the Church.
3. This principal is also used in the New Testament for Church Government.
4. For you see the Pastor, not the people, or board, must give account to God for the local church to which he is pastor. (Hebrews 13:17)

## II. FEEDING, LEADING, AND EXEMPLIFYING

- **A PASTOR WILL FLOW IN ALL THE THREE AREAS OF: A PASTOR, A BISHOP, AND AN ELDER.**
- **BUT AN ELDER WILL NOT FLOW IN ALL THREE OF THESE AREAS.**

### A. PASTOR -- SHEPHERD

(Greek) - poimen, means a shepherd.

### **"FEEDING"**

Ezekiel 34:2b ...should not the shepherds feed the flocks?

Ephesians 4:11-12

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I Cor. 12:28-31

I Thess. 5:12

I Peter 5:1-4

### 1. GIFT

a. Eph. 4:11 And He gave some....pastors...

1. Ministry Gift.

2. Set in by God.

### 2. FATHER-LIKE

a. Eph. 5:23-25

1. Head of the Church.

### 3. QUALIFICATIONS

a. I Tim. 3:1-7

b. Titus 1:6-9

### 4. MINISTRY

a. Eph. 4:11-16

1. To equip the saints

b. Acts 6:1-4

1. Continual prayer

2. Ministry of the Word

c. Ezekiel 34:2 (AMPLIFIED)

1. To feed the flock

2. Strengthen the diseased and weak

3. Heal the sick

4. Bandage the hurt and crippled

5. Bring back the stray (backslider)

6. Seek the lost

d. Heb. 13:17

1. Watch over souls

2. Give account of souls

e. I Pet. 2:25

### 5. VISION

A dream, revelation, or oracle

a. Prov. 29:18a Where there is no vision, the people perish:...

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- b. Amos 3:3
- c. Eph. 4:13a
- d. I Cor. 1:10
- e. The church is to operate through a God-given vision
  - 1. God gives the vision for each local church to the pastor.
  - 2. The pastor is to lead the church through that God-given vision.
  - 3. The pastor give the vision to the people.  
The people, in turn bring the vision to pass through the operation of the Ministry of Helps.

**OMEGA CHURCH'S VISION IS:**  
**THE MINISTRY OF EXCELLENCE.**  
I Kings 10:1-9

"FOR THE EARTH SHALL BE FILLED WITH THE  
KNOWLEDGE OF THE GLORY OF THE LORD, AS  
THE WATERS COVER THE SEA." HAB. 2:14

- B. BISHOP -- (Another name for Pastor) - Overseer  
(Greek) - espikopw -- superintendent; officer in charge; overseer

### **"LEADING"**

I Cor. 12:28

#### 1. GIFT

- a. Eph. 4:11  
Ministry Gift  
Set in by God

#### 2. QUALIFICATIONS

- a. I Tim. 3:1-7
- b. Titus 1:6-9

#### 3. MINISTRY

- a. Acts 20:28  
Oversees

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Feeds the flock

- **AFTER LOOKING AT THE OFFICE OF A BISHOP, YOU CAN SEE THAT THE BISHOP IS ANOTHER NAME FOR THE OFFICE OF A PASTOR/SHEPHERD.**

### C. ELDER

(Greek) presbuteros - meaning older, or senior

- **ALL PASTORS WILL FLOW IN THE MINISTRY OF AN ELDER**
- **BUT NOT ALL ELDERS WILL FLOW IN THE MINISTRY OF A PASTOR/SHEPHERD.**

### **"EXEMPLIFY"**

#### 1. OFFICE

- a. AN ELDER IS AN ASSISTANT TO THE CHIEF ELDER, THE PASTOR.
  1. Set in by man.

#### 2. QUALIFICATIONS

- a. I Tim. 3:1-7
- b. Titus 1:6

#### 3. MINISTRY

- a. Numbers 11:16-17
  1. Share the burden of the people (assisting the pastor).
- b. I Peter 5:1-4
  1. Feed the flock.
  2. Take the oversight.
  3. Be examples.
- c. James 5:4-5
  1. Pray for the sick.
  2. Anoint the sick.
- d. I Tim. 5:17
  1. Rule (to be over, place before); in other words, be

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an example.

2. Labor in Word and doctrine.

- **THE PASTOR'S ROLE IS THAT OF:**

- **FEEDING**

- **LEADING**

- **EXEMPLIFYING**

### D. DEACON - Servant

(Greek) - diako - meaning to run errands, a waiter

#### 1. OFFICE

a. Acts 6:3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

1. Set in by men.

#### 2. QUALIFICATIONS

a. Acts 6:3

1. Honest report.

2. Full of the Holy Ghost.

3. Full of wisdom.

#### 3. MINISTRY

a. Acts 6:1-4

1. Take care of widows (in daily ministrations).

2. Serve tables.

## III. SUMMARY

A. God gives His vision for a local church to the man He appointed, called the Pastor.

B. The pastor in turn gives direction by God to the vision, and the people help bring God's vision for the local church to pass.